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## **GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **ANNUAL MEETING**

The annual meeting was held as announced on December 28 and 29 at the University of Chicago, the Council meeting also on December 27.

The registration of about sixty included representatives from twenty-one institutions. In view of the difficult conditions of travel, the preoccupation of many members by war activity, or by meetings in other parts of the country, this smaller attendance than heretofore was not deemed disappointing by the officers.

A number of letters indicating a preference for meetings at a different season were received by the officers and referred to the Committee Q—on Time and Place of Annual Meeting—to ascertain if possible whether any consensus of such opinion could be determined.

The local arrangements for the Chicago meeting were admirably planned and carried out by the Committee under the capable chairmanship of Professor H. W. Prescott of the University of Chicago, and the dinner at the Quadrangle Club, in which members of the American Mathematical Society and of the Mathematical Association of America participated, proved thoroughly interesting and enjoyable.

The Committee on Academic Freedom and Academic Tenure presented an extended report covering two years of active work. A subcommittee on Academic Freedom in War Time also presented a report, and both of these will be published in the February BULLETIN.

The constitutional amendments affecting conditions of membership were adopted with minor changes and will be found elsewhere in this issue of the BULLETIN incorporated in the revised constitution.

The recommendations of Committee J on Honorary Degrees (published in the November BULLETIN) were adopted, and it was voted that the Committee be continued in order to exercise such influence in the direction indicated by its recommendations as may prove practicable.

The recommendations of Committee M on Proposals of the Second Pan-American Congress (included in its report in the October BUL-

LETIN), were adopted with certain modifications (to be published in the February BULLETIN).

The recommendations of Committee P on Pensions and Insurance (published in the November BULLETIN) were adopted.

**RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE ON PENSIONS AND  
INSURANCE**

1. We believe that the plan of insurance as proposed by the Commission, if actuarially sound, is well adapted in its general features to meet the needs of teachers in American universities and colleges, although we believe that experience will indicate that the plan should be modified in some particulars.

2. We recommend that this Association do not appoint representatives to participate in the organization of the proposed insurance company until there is substantial compliance with the conditions hereinafter enumerated.

3. We recommend that the American Association of University Professors express its approval of the plan and co-operate in launching it, when the following conditions have been satisfied:

(a) That before taking any steps toward the organization of the proposed insurance company and before the diversion of any funds available to the Carnegie Foundation, to the purposes of the proposed insurance company, the present obligations of the Foundation, both legal and moral, be examined and determined, so far as is practicable, with precision and definite and binding assurances be given by the Carnegie Foundation or some other responsible body that provision will be made for meeting those obligations to the extent of the financial resources of the Carnegie Foundation and of any funds available to it.

(b) That the proposed plan of insurance together with a comprehensive statement of its prospective operation be submitted to an independent body of actuaries for study, and its criticism and suggestions invited.

(c) That the proposed plan of insurance be so modified that in the organization of the proposed insurance company suitable provision be made whereby within a reasonable time, if not immediately, the power to elect the company's trustees or directors shall be vested in the policy-holders, in proportion to their contribution to the financial resources of the insurance company, and that they shall have authority to vote in person, or by proxy, at all meetings for the election of directors.

The Committee reserves the privilege of bringing to the attention of the Association other matters germane to this subject or supplementing the foregoing recommendations when such action seems desirable.

The following supplementary vote presented by the representative of the Committee was adopted:

That the report of Committee P be accepted and the recommendations be approved, and, further, that when in the judgment of Committee P, concurred in by the Executive Committee, the plans of insurance of the Carnegie Foundation conform to the spirit of the recommendations in this report, the Executive Committee be authorized to take such steps as may be necessary for co-operation in carrying on these plans.

In connection with the discussion of these recommendations an extended letter from Chairman Stone was also read.

Informal reports of progress were presented for Committee I (University Ethics), Committee S (Summer Schools) and Committee T (Relations of Faculties and Governing Boards).

An important question of general policy was introduced by a resolution of the local branch at Johns Hopkins University, and an accompanying letter from Mr. F. J. Teggart of the University of California. The letter is quoted in part:

. . . During the last thirty years, scholars in the United States have made significant contributions to the common stock of Western science and learning. During this period, indeed, research has been energetically cultivated . . . so that today there is practically no field of study in which America is not worthily represented.

On the other hand, it must not be overlooked that our contributions have not been made independently of the work done in Europe. In point of fact, our researches have been made possible through the existence of an *apparatus of scholarship* which has been built up at a great expenditure of labor on the part of our fellow-investigators in Europe, more particularly in Germany. We must not overlook the vitally important point that without this apparatus of scholarship the continuous advancement of learning could not long be maintained.

Now even before the war this apparatus had begun to fall into arrears. It would be a simple matter to give a list of bibliographical publications, of "Jahresberichte," and other essential tools which had begun to lag four and five years behind the expected time of publication. Since the war, matters have, of course, grown worse; and, furthermore, as a result of the deplorable conditions which now exist in Europe there has been brought about a marked depletion in the ranks of scholars up to, and perhaps beyond, forty-five years of age, and an equally regrettable diversion of interest and energy to other activities. The outlook, therefore, is most serious, for the apparatus upon which we ourselves are dependent for the promotion of research, and which can be maintained only by unbroken and systematic effort, threatens to disappear.

In this juncture there seems to me but one attitude possible on the part of American scholars. It seems to me a fact of the most obvious character that we in America must now assume the responsibility for carrying on this work. We have abundantly demonstrated our ability to contribute as individuals to research, it now becomes our duty, both to our country and to the world of scholarship, to take up the burden which Europe, for many years to come, will not be able to sustain.

All individual research is based ultimately upon the use of certain tools which in Europe during the nineteenth century have taken the form:

- (1) Of bibliographies, which must be kept up to date periodically;
- (2) Of reports and "abstracts" showing the progress of work;
- (3) Of extensive systematic treatises showing the state of knowledge in a given subject at a given time;
- (4) Of journals, which are required to give adequate opportunity for the development of thought in every possible field.

During the last fifteen years there has been a strong tendency in the United States towards the publication of one or more of the types mentioned in almost all subjects, but it may be said positively that in no subject has the entire necessary apparatus been provided in the English language.

The only real obstacle to our assumption of the obligation thus indicated, and of thus serving the highest interests of man, is an economic one. On the one hand, university work as organized in this country does not provide the opportunity for individual production on the scale demanded; and, on the other, the much greater cost of printing in this country, as compared with Germany for example, renders large undertakings not immediately remunerative very difficult to finance. The result is that here we have brought the "text-book" to a high state of perfection, but are almost wholly lacking in the greater systematic treatises which are essential for higher instruction; we have, through our university presses, reached the point where separate investigations may be issued, but have the greatest difficulty in maintaining bibliographies, progress-reports and "abstracts," as well as periodicals.

Let us assume, then, that our university men have a national responsibility at the present time, the acceptance of which constitutes "war work" of the highest type for those who are themselves non-combatants of the most pronounced kind. The problem of the moment is how the energy and activity of these men may be brought to bear upon the situation.

What is first needed is a definite understanding and expression of the responsibility which I have indicated, and an unequivocal statement of the urgency of the need for building up an American apparatus of scholarship. It seems to me that the suggestion that this aspect of the problem should be referred to the American Association of University Professors indicates a very desirable solution of a difficult problem. The interest at stake is not that of any one subject in particular, but of national scholarship as a whole, and this organization is the only one which represents at one and the same time every phase of intellectual activity in our universities. Furthermore, as the Association is actually in existence, with branches in all parts of the country, it is in a position to obtain an expression of opinion and to utilize this for the purpose of gaining recognition of our needs. In other words it represents a collective interest and is in a position to work for a national end. . . .

The resolution of the Johns Hopkins Branch follows:

*Resolved*, That the Johns Hopkins Branch of the American Association of University Professors approve the proposals contained in the communication from Professor Teggart of the University of California; and that the communication be transmitted to the next annual meeting with the recommendation that a new com-

mittee of the Association be created, or some existing committee be designated, to report a plan for accomplishing the objects set forth by Professor Teggart.

The proposed Committee was authorized by vote of the Association. The American Association for the Advancement of Science has since taken similar action with a view to co-operation with us.

On the basis of a resolution from the Vassar College Branch it was voted that a new standing committee be instituted to be known as Committee W, on the Status of Women in College and University Faculties. It is to be the duty of this committee to investigate and report upon the practice of our colleges and universities, and the principles which should govern them in the appointment of women to the higher academic positions; upon the opportunities for advancement now offered and that should be offered to women of ability and scholarship in the various fields of college and university teaching; and upon all other problems involved in the determination of the present or the desirable status of women in college and university faculties.

A letter from Ex-President Wigmore emphasized the importance of exercising the influence of the Association in co-operation with other bodies interested against such a lowering of the draft age as would practically suspend college and university work for men. On recommendation of the Council this matter was referred with power to a committee of three, consisting of President-elect Coulter, Messrs. Haskins (Chairman of the Committee on Patriotic Service), and Wigmore.

The following message to the President of the United States was adopted by rising vote:

**"To THE PRESIDENT,"**

Washington, D. C.:

"The American Association of University Professors in annual meeting assembled in Chicago hereby expresses to you its hearty and grateful approval of the course you have pursued in calling the nation to arms against a foe who has ruthlessly violated the rights of law-abiding and peaceful peoples. Many of our members have voluntarily entered the service of the country, eager to do their part, and many more are ready to answer any call that may come to them from the nation in this great emergency. We pledge to you, individually and as a body, our loyal support in the stern task confronting you, convinced that under your wise and firm leadership the conflict will be carried to a successful issue, to the everlasting honor of the Republic."

The Committee on Resolutions for the meeting consisted of Messrs. Denney (Ohio), Davis (Nebraska), Hicks (Cincinnati), Talbot (Illinois), Wenley (Michigan).

The report of the Treasurer was referred for auditing to Mr. Hancock of Cincinnati, and such other members of the Cincinnati Branch as he may designate, the result to be communicated to the Council.

The annual election resulted in the choice of officers for 1918 whose names are printed elsewhere in this BULLETIN.

It was voted that the Association adopt a vote of thanks to the authorities of the University of Chicago, to the Council of the Quadrangle Club, and to the Governors of the Reynolds Club for hospitalities extended to the Association, and to the members of the local committee of professors from the University of Chicago, and Northwestern University, for their zeal and courtesy in caring for the comfort and pleasure of the Association during the period of its Fourth Annual Meeting.

The Council appointed the following as its Executive Committee for 1918: The President, the Vice-President, the Secretary, the Treasurer, and Messrs. Commons, Lovejoy and Thilly.

The President appointed the following Committee to nominate officers at the next annual meeting: Messrs. Hobbs (Michigan), *Chairman*, Conklin (Princeton), Hedrick (Missouri), Latané (Johns Hopkins), Nichols (Cornell).

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The Circular of Information and the Nomination Blank are at present in course of revision. Bills for 1918 dues should reach members this month.